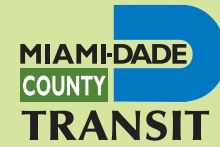




Issue 2 Winter 2006

making connections

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program News



Make the Right Connections!

In this issue, we introduce *SmartLinks*, a new feature designed to connect you to valuable online resources.

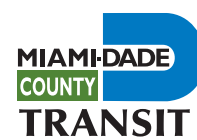
For more information see article inside!

also in this issue

Contracting Opportunities DBE Certification Professional Learning Exchange
SmartLinks Bid & Proposal Workshops DBE Success Story

share your ideas with us

Send your comments to Karen Hollis at khollis@miamidade.gov or by fax to 305.375.2997



Making Connections
Miami-Dade Transit
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 910
Miami, Florida 33128-1999

DBE Certification with Miami-Dade County



When Opportunity Knocks... Are You Ready?

Miami-Dade Transit's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program is focused on providing meaningful opportunities for the DBE community. The first step in taking advantage of these opportunities is ensuring that your enterprise is certified as a DBE with Miami-Dade County and that your certification is up-to-date. Don't let opportunity pass you by!

Initial certification entails a review process that takes about four weeks and requires a \$75 application fee. The process involves an eligibility review meeting between a representative of the County's Business Assistance Division and the applicant firm's owners, partners and/or key staff members. It includes a site visit to the company's principal place of business – if located in the County. However, it is important to note that DBEs are not required to be located in Miami-Dade County.

Certification is for a one-year period, with annual re-certifications at a fee of \$25. Visit the Department of Business Development web site at www.miamidade.gov/dbd to find out more about the certification process and access the official list of certified DBE firms. Or contact the Business Assistance Division at 305.375.3111.

PTP Contracting Opportunities

Make sure that you are on Miami-Dade Transit's (MDT's) list to receive Requests for Proposals (RFPs). For more information, please contact Maria Cerna at 305.375.4583 or mcerna@miamidade.gov.

Design Contracts

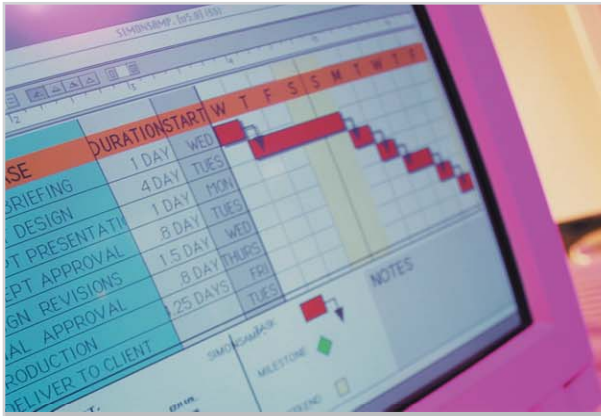
Apr 2006	Pedestrian Overpasses along US-1
Apr 2006	North Corridor Final Design
Jul 2007	North Corridor Systems Contractor (Design, Furnish & Install)
Jun 2008	MIC-FIU Final Design
Apr 2009	MIC-FIU Systems Contractor (Design, Furnish & Install)

Construction Contracts

May 2006	Safety Walkway Metromover Test Track
Jun 2006	Douglas Road Pedestrian Overpass Access Ramp
Jul 2006	SW 200th Street Park & Ride Lot
Jul 2006	SW 296th Street Park & Ride Lot (MCC)
Dec 2006	MIC-Earlington Heights (Accelerated) (Including Systems Design, Procurement & Installation)
Mar 2008	South Miami Pedestrian Overpass
Mar 2008	University Pedestrian Overpass
Mar 2009	North Corridor
Jul 2010	MIC-FIU

Construction Engineering & Inspection (CE&I) Contracts

July 2006	MIC-Earlington Heights CE&I Consultant
April 2008	North Corridor CE&I Consultant



MDT Professional Learning Exchange

Scheduling & Cost Controls Workshop Gets Kudos for Valuable Info

MDT’s Professional Learning Exchange series got off to a great start with a session on Scheduling & Cost Controls. One participant summed it up this way: “The workshop was so good that I’m already looking forward to the next class. Instructor Leroy Isidore was excellent! He was knowledgeable, and also a good teacher. To have both is a perfect combination that is not often available for free.” The workshop focused on strategic approaches to the sequencing of work required to carry out a project efficiently. Participants learned about project scheduling and scheduling software tools. MDT’s Director Roosevelt Bradley had an opportunity to drop by and speak with workshop participants, reinforcing MDT’s commitment to the DBE program. He remarked, “I was impressed by Leroy’s ability to translate technical details into useful terms and approaches for everyday application. We are fortunate to have industry specialists who are eager to share their knowledge and experience with us. It provides a unique learning experience as well as a forum to develop industry-wide relationships. I also enjoyed meeting workshop attendees and hope to see even more participants in our April workshop.”

“An effective schedule can save thousands of dollars. An ineffective schedule can be the downfall of a project.”

Leroy Isidore,
Scheduling & Cost Controls Workshop Instructor



Left to right: Instuctor Leroy Isidore, Director Roosevelt Bradley, DBE workshop participants.

April 25th Workshop to Feature FTA QA/QC Guidelines

Join the second Professional Learning Exchange Workshop to gain useful insights on FTA guidelines, essential elements of the QA/QC system, organization of a quality management system, and how to develop a project Quality Plan. Register today by calling or sending an e-mail to Karen Hollis at 305.375.2186 or khollis@miamidade.gov.

FTA QA/QC Guidelines Workshop

Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2006
Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Place: Government Center, 10th Floor
111 NW 1st Street, Miami, FL



SmartLinks

Connecting to Valuable Resources Online

Welcome to *SmartLinks*, a new feature in **Making Connections** designed to provide links to web sites with interesting, pertinent and useful information for DBEs and small business entrepreneurs.

www.fta.dot.gov

In this issue, we would like to highlight the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) web site – **www.fta.dot.gov**. This site has a wealth of information on the nation's strategies for transit development, programs, funding and much more. Take a look at FTA's current Strategic Plan to understand the agency's mission, vision and outlook for transit projects. Are you wondering where more than \$280 billion in federal funding for surface transportation programs are going over the next 5 years? Check out **SAFETEA-LU** and **New Starts** to see what may be coming to your region.

Click on **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise** on the **Civil Rights/Accessibility** page and you'll find yourself on the new Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization and Minority Resource Center (OSDBU/MRC) site. This site contains information on OSDBU/MRC's Regional Centers. A partnership with local chambers of commerce, trade associations and minority educational institutions, the Regional Centers offer comprehensive technical assistance services focused on assisting DBE firms in becoming successful competitors in transportation-related acquisitions and projects. The site also provides information on the Short Term Lending Program and Bonding Assistance Program, which were established to make it easier for DBEs and small disadvantaged businesses doing work on transportation-related projects to obtain working capital in order to successfully compete in the transportation market.

Join Miami-Dade County's Bid and Proposal Workshops

Miami-Dade County's Department of Procurement Management offers free monthly Bid and Proposal Preparation Workshops for vendors, as follows:

How to Prepare a Bid	2nd Tuesday of the month
How to Prepare a Proposal/Qualifications	3rd Tuesday of the month
The Selection Process & Proposal Preparation	4th Tuesday of the month

Workshops are held from 10 am to noon in the Government Center, 111 NW 1st Street, 18th Floor. For schedule details go to: www.miamidade.gov/dpm/workshops or call 305.375.5773 to reserve a place in an upcoming workshop.

DBE Success Story Triangle Associates, Inc.



“Hard work, persistence and participation in programs designed to open doors are key factors to the success of DBE firms,” observes Osiris Quintana, owner and president of Triangle Associates, Inc. This successful businesswoman says that her initial challenge came in earning professional respect and credibility in the traditionally male-dominated construction industry. Established in 1996 to meet the growing demand of public and private sector clients, Triangle Associates is an engineering consulting firm that specializes in civil, environmental, structural and transportation engineering services.

Ms Quintana gave thumbs-up to MDT’s new DBE initiatives, “The greatest value lies in the program elements that give DBEs direct access to industry trends, information and contacts. This is the first time I’ve seen this approach, and it’s the best. I wish it were the same on all of my projects.”

Today, Ms. Quintana says that one of her biggest challenges – and one shared by many DBE firms – is maintaining cash flow. She believes that it would help to implement a program that obligates primes to pay DBE firms that submit acceptable invoices, whether or not the prime’s invoice is accepted. Also, unbundling contracts into sizes more manageable for DBE firms would be an excellent benefit.